

No. 414 - July 14, 1972

IN THIS ISSUE:

South/North Korea Rapprochement Welcomed in Japan
The Kyodan Assembly Postponed Again
New Director of Iwakuni Christian Servicemen's Center
RC/Protestant Joint Translation of the Bible
A Christian's View on the Nature of the New Cabinet
Ecumenical Clinical Training Offered
Police Raid Coffeehouse

SOUTH/NORTH KOREA RAPPROCHEMENT WELCOMED IN JAPAN

--ANNIONG HASIMNIKA - SHALOM

by In Ha Lee, General Secretary of
Korean Christian Church in Japan

Reading the startling news of rapprochement of South and North Korea in a July 4 evening newspaper, a certain chill of joy ran through my back. Tears blurred my vision as I read the article in a Tokyo train. I missed the station where I was to get off. All Koreans in Japan joined in a scene of wild excitement.

Twenty-seven years of bloodshed and separation are just too long. How we wished our people should be united again! Many a time, the differences in ideologies and struggles between political structures brought us a hopeless fatigue, and sometimes it drove us to resignation, justifying the present stagnant state on the grounds that it might be the only way to avoid bloodshed. Then this great news! It says that already representatives of the South and North paid mutual visits to Seoul and to Pyongyang and reached agreement on seven points in the direction of reunifying Korea.

The unification of our mother land will be accomplished along the principles of 1) autonomy, 2) peaceful means, 3) overcoming the differences in thoughts and structures. At last both North and South have come to realize the stupidity of having been tossed about by the big powers and are determined to revive the people's wisdom to win unity autonomously.

Anniiong Hasimnika - These were the first words expressed by the Red Cross representatives of both sides when they met last August at Panmunjon. We exchange greetings in these words. It means, "Are you in peace?" How it resembles "*Shalom* (Peace)", the greeting of the Israelites who were similarly surrounded by big nations! Away with the tragedy of separation!

Of course no optimism is allowed here. For a quarter century, both sides have walked different paths. However, every time the new phase of history is introduced, we sense the hand of God who reigns over history. It is God who establishes the nation of *Anniiong* and *Shalom*. I ask you all to pray for our people to respond to this, God's action.

- translation from the column in *Kirisuto Shinbun*

--Korean Christian Church in Japan issued a brief supporting statement on the North-South Joint communique on July 6 in the name of its moderator, Rev. Tuk Sam Kim.

--Korean residents in Japan who affiliate themselves with North Korea similarly expressed their joy. Mr. Dok Seu Han, chairman of *ChoSoRen* (General Association of Koreans in Japan) held a press conference June 4. He welcomed the communique and proposed a consultation with Koreans who belong to *Mindan* (Association of the Korean Residents in Japan), an organization supporting south Korea, to discuss concrete measures to actualize the spirit of the communique.

* * * * *

The *Kyodan* (United Church of Christ in Japan) decided not to convene its general assembly as had been scheduled to be held in October. The Preparation Committee for the General Assembly, which had been appointed March 15 by the Executive Committee (See JCAN March 24 p. 2), proposed a plan to the Executive Committee held June 12 at Japan Christian Center in Tokyo. However, due to the agonizing situation in which four Districts have not been able to call their own Assemblies to appoint representatives to the General Assembly, serious questions were raised as to the legitimacy of convening of GA.

When seventeen members of the Executive Committee were asked to vote, only eight members supported convening, resulting in defeat of the motion. An Extraordinary Standing Exec. Com. has been called to discuss new directions on June 21.

Items on the agenda that passed included:

- Approval of Kyoto District's action to decide several issues by mail vote, since the assembly that had been called June 6 ended in confusion.
- Approval of granting special privilege to take ordination examinations to those *hokyoshi* (licensed preachers) who do not have the required two year experience after licence because the Kyodan had been unable to give examinations to the seminary graduates due to its present confusion. (In the Kyodan a license to preach (*Hokyoshi*) is given to a seminary graduate or non-graduate after passing the appropriate examination. Then a pastor is ordained as *Seikyoshi* after passing examinations on all fields of theology which are given to *Hokyoshi* with two years of pastoral experience.)

THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN JAPAN (KYODAN) are now available in English. Orders should be made to the Kyodan Information Center at Japan Christian Center. The cost is ¥300 (\$1.00) plus postage (¥55 in Japan; \$.50 airmail; \$.15 seamail).

- |

IWAKUNI CHRISTIAN SERVICEMEN'S CENTER HAS A NEW DIRECTOR

Mrs. Robert (Margery) McWilliams, a United Methodist missionary to the Kyodan since 1951, has been appointed acting director of the Iwakuni Christian Servicemen's Center. She succeeds Rev. Karl Karpa, an American Baptist, who since 1962 has served as the director of the Center. Karpa has moved to Yokohama to teach at Kanto Gakuin High School.

Mrs. McWilliams is the mother of a daughter and four sons, one of whom has served in the Marine Corps. A graduate of the University of New Mexico with a BA in Higher Education, she has taught in high schools in the US and has been teaching for more than ten years in Japan. All her years of missionary service have been spent in the same Yamaguchi-ken area, where her husband serves as a pastor of a local church. With her fluent command of the Japanese language, she has been active in the local and district church work.

Iwakuni Christian Servicemen's Center is sponsored jointly by the NCCC/USA and NCC/J to minister to the personal needs of servicemen. It has a fine building with recreational equipment just outside the main gate of the US Marine Base. Mrs. McWilliams' appointment came after a long period of negotiation between the NCCs of Japan and USA. The Center will now have an official management committee which is consisted of 10 members, five being appointed by the US NCC and five by Japan.

- |

JOINT TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE

At the press conference held July 6 at Japan Bible Society Building in Ginza, JBS General Secretary, Rev. Shunzo Miyauchi announced a Catholic/Protestant Joint translation of the Bible. According to Miyauchi the plan was first approved in 1969 by JBS and by the Bishops' Conference of Japan Catholic Church. Recently 26 persons were officially appointed as translators.

Miyauchi said it will take at least three years to translate the New Testament and seven for the Old Testament. Expenses will be raised both by the Catholic Church and by the Protestant churches, he said.

- |

by Rev. Yoshikiyo Ito, Joshigakuin High School

On July 5, the new president of the Liberal-Democratic Party who at the same time is the prime minister of the Japanese Government was elected. Kakuei Tanaka, 54 - prime minister who is not a college graduate - a man of the common people - quick decision and action - these are the catchphrases the mass communication uses to build up a new image of "Kaku-san".

It is true that the appearance of Prime Minister Tanaka after a series of beaurocrats-turned-prime-ministers gives a certain freshness in the political atmosphere. As compared with Eisaku Sato who maintained the seat of prime minister by doing nothing for more than 7 years, there are many expectations from Tanaka who is noted for his young bulldozer-like action-mindedness. But where is this bulldozer heading? We must not remain charmed by the mood.

First, we must point out the fact that this election of the president of LDP took place completely out of contact from the Japanese voters. It was a "struggle within a closed room". It has become a public secret that an enormous amount of money was exchanged among various sects within LDP. Can it be justified as a "necessary evil" in order to be the president? In other words, the seat of the president-prime minister is worth and pays well even spending an enormous sum of money.

Secondly, we must not forget that Tanaka has been a general manager of the Sato cabinet. It was his ability that enabled LDP to hold 300 seats in the Diet. Sato used him as much as possible, and at the time when Sato was to retire, he named Takeo Fukuda to be his sucesor. This infuriated Tanaka, who then fought vigorously against the Sato-Fukuda line. Tanaka cleverly used this incident for his own benefit. He propagandized that this was the proof that he was different from Sato. However, none should forget that Tanaka himself was an essential part of the Sato Cabinet. It reveals the typical nature of politicians - for whom everything is permitted in order to attain power - to follow, to double-cross, to lie, to oppose, to ally, etc. There is no youthfulness nor freshness. What it there is only an ugly ambition for power.

Thirdly, the fact that he is said to be a commoner. In it is hidden a typical Japanese mentality to desire personal advancement. What is the personal advancement? In order to attain personal advancement, one has to push other persons aside. And in order to cajole those whom he pushed aside, he has to scatter about money and concessions. Only those who master this technique can succeed in personal advancement. Tanaka's "common-ness" is none other than this "personal advancement". Here lies an actual form of the "economic animal".

Fourthly, problems concerning the members of Tanaka cabinet. Other than the fact that the members are all old persons, the distribution of personnel is clearly the result of consideration to award the service they rendered for the election of Tanaka. For whom is the government? Moreover, the fact that the former director general of National Police Agency became the Deputy Director of Cabinet Secretariat; that the Minister of Construction (in relation to the administration of which Tanaka is never cleared of black rumours) holds concurrently the office of Director General of the National Public Safety Commission; that the most energetic promotor of Yasukuni Shrine Nationalization Bill became the Minister of Education...all these factors darken the direction of this cabinet.

Lastly, the weakness of the opposition parties. It is a most unhappy situation for the people that they do not have strong opposition parties which can stand strongly against the LDP who have cheated the people. They must start by building up a grass-roots democracy instead of always saying categorical "No"s.

* * * NCCJ GENERAL SECRETARIAT OFFICE will be closed
during the week of August 7-11. For urgent
matters call 0425-73-0409 at the General
Secretary's residence. * * *

= |

* * * * * An Ecumenical Clinical Pastoral Education Seminar was held at the Sakuramachi Hospital in Koganei, Tokyo, during the first week of July, beginning Sunday the 2nd and ending Saturday the 8th. Twelve seminary students and sisters of various Catholic orders lived at the hospital and experienced intensive training in human relations, particularly in the context of hospital visitation.

The seminar was sponsored by the Tokyo Catholic Seminary, but students from the Anglican and Lutheran seminaries also participated. Miss Sachiko Yoshizawa of Inochi no Denwa (Life Line Telephone Counseling), Chaplain Ihara of St. Luke's Hospital and Prof. Kenneth Dale of the Lutheran Seminary participated as supervisors for the trainees.

This was the second ecumenical seminar of this type, and the enthusiastic final evaluations indicate that similar training courses will continue to be offered annually. Fr. Leo Kawahara of the Tokyo Catholic Seminary is the instigator and coordinator of this effort.

— I

POLICE RAID COFFEEHOUSE

by Mark Foster, Pacific Counseling Service

In February, 1972 the Hobbitt, a small coffee house for anti-war GI's and Japanese people, was opened. The dehumanizing nature of Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station south of Hiroshima has long been known by many Japanese people, so for this reason the Japan Peace for Vietnam Committee, *Beheiren*, established Hobbitt. With GI's and Japanese citizens sitting, talking about their lives, the war, the Marine Corps, or just listening to some music, the atmosphere in the Hobbitt is a complete contrast to other establishments in base towns. There are also trained military counselors and lawyers available who assist men and women in Conscientious Objector discharges, court-martials, and other legal matters.

This type of atmosphere must certainly be threatening to the forces of law and order, for on June 4 the Hobbitt was entered by 25 Japanese police, and thoroughly searched, including bodily searches of the Japanese and Americans present. The alleged reason given by the police was to search for weapons, in connection with a young Japanese activist arrested in Hiroshima in the same day. Newspapers reported that the activist had obtained a weapon in the Hobbitt during November; of course, since the Hobbitt wasn't opened until February, the story is patently false.

After the Japanese police raid, Iwakuni GI's were constantly warned against going to the Hobbitt by Base authorities. But as this did not deter them, two weeks later the Hobbitt was declared "off-limits" to all military personnel in Japan. During the first days of the enforced rule, with MP's watching the Hobbitt, several Marines were arrested for violating the order. When it became clear that there is no immediate way to protest the order, anti-war GI's set up another house from which they will conduct their anti-war activities on an interim basis. So one of the main targets of the recent military actions, the *Semper Fi* GI newspaper, will continue in its third year.

In the mean time *Beheiren* is planning legal action, directed against the newspapers (*Yomiuri* and *Sankei*) for their sensationalist reporting of the police raid. Action will also be taken by *Beheiren* against the Hiroshima court which gave so freely the warrant to search the Hobbitt. Finally, joint efforts by American and Japanese lawyers will be directed at the Marine Corps, in order to reverse the order placing the Hobbitt off limits with no clear reasons given.

The Iwakuni peace movement relies on the Christian community for strong support. Local Christians have for several years ministered to GI's as whole persons and supported those seeking Conscientious Objector status. And in this current crisis, support is also needed for the Hobbitt and what it stands for.

Any letters of support can be mailed to: P.O. Box 49, Iwakuni-shi, Yamaguchi-Ken, Japan.

— I